

trucks that carry the concrete components in separate compartments and mix them on location) must stay below 34,000 pounds. HB 2153 would have permitted vehicles designed to manufacture or to transport and manufacture ready-mixed concrete to use the special 44,000-pound limit along with those designed exclusively to transport the product.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said that by exempting another class of vehicles from the state's weight-limit laws, the bill would contribute to the deterioration of state highways. Noting that Texas motorists have been asked to pay higher user fees to repair and rehabilitate the highways, the Governor said "I cannot allow a bill to become law which would add more of a burden to Texas taxpayers by allowing more vehicles carrying heavier loads to cause further damage to our highways."

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Richardson said the bill would simply have clarified current law by providing a definition of ready-mixed concrete trucks. The Department of Public Safety had agreed to the definition, which he said would have affected only about 100 vehicles statewide. "He didn't know what he was doing," Rep. Richardson said of the veto. "The Governor told me he was trying to send a signal to the Legislature saying he wanted a tough new overweight-truck bill. I asked him if he realized I was the swing vote on Al Granoff's overweight-truck bill in the Transportation Committee. He said he wasn't. So he vetoes my little bill to send a message to the Legislature to pass a bill that I got out of committee."

NOTES:

Rep. Granoff's bill, HB 2333, died in Calendars.

The House Study Group analysis of HB 2153 appeared in the April 11 Daily Floor Report.

Staffing of emergency vehicles  
(HB 2174 by Melton)

DIGEST:

Current law (VACS art. 4447o) requires basic-life-support emergency-medical-services (EMS) vehicles to be staffed with at least two persons trained as emergency-care attendants. HB 2174 would have required EMS providers serving areas of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants to have only one of the two attendants trained at the emergency-care-attendant level.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said that, though HB 2174 was meant to remove a potential hardship for rural areas where emergency training is unavailable, the bill was unnecessary because current law permits a variance in the attendant-training requirement where local conditions make it impossible to obtain this training. The Governor said it would be imprudent to reduce training standards in all rural areas.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Melton said that the Governor did not get correct information before vetoing the bill. Testimony from all over the state indicated that the bill was desperately needed in rural areas. In the small communities, he said, EMS vehicles with only one trained volunteer attendant and one driver do a good job in saving lives. Rep. Melton said the local-variance procedure cited by the Governor has not worked well. Local communities are unfamiliar with the variance procedure. And when variances have been sought they have not been issued by the Department of Health. The original sponsors of the emergency-attendant law, Sen. Sarpalius and former Sen. Doggett, were aware of the problems that have arisen and had no problem with the correction made by the bill, he said.

Proof of citizenship for voter registration  
(HB 2316 by S. Thompson)

DIGEST:

HB 2316 would have amended the Texas Election Code to require naturalized citizens to state only that they are naturalized citizens, instead of having to indicate the court of naturalization or its location, on application forms for voter registration.

GOVERNOR'S  
REASONS  
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the information about the court of naturalization helped protect the integrity of the state's electoral process by ensuring the validity of voter-registration applications.

SPONSOR'S  
VIEW:

Rep. Senfronia Thompson said she accepted the Governor's reasons for the veto. She added, however, that the Secretary of State had requested the bill to